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**PATENT**  
Atty. Docket No. 2497 CIP 3 CON 4  
(203-3450 CIP 3 CON 4)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Maciej J. Kieturakis et al.

Examiner: TBD

Serial No.: 10/786,873

Group Art Unit: TBD

Filed: February 25, 2004

Dated: September 23, 2004

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD  
FOR DISSECTING TISSUE LAYERS

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**


Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. The references listed were previously cited and submitted in the parent application, U.S. Application Serial No. 09/252,536, filed February 18, 1999. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d) and 35 U.S.C. §120, copies of the references can be obtained in the above-identified application.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 23, 2004.

Dated: September 23, 2004

  
Dana A. Brussel

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.
- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.
- ☒ To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.
- ☐ Enclosed herewith is a certificate under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).

- ☐ Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(ii).
- ☐ Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$130.00. (37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))
- ☐ Please charge the \$130.00 petition fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.
- ☐ Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- ☐ Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.
- ☒ Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account 21-0550. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 21-0550 therefor.
- TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.**

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance.

Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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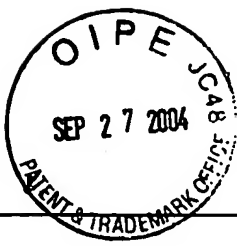


<b>Form PTO-1449</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b>  <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b>  (Use several sheets if necessary)	<b>Docket Number (Optional)</b>  2497 CIP 3 CON 4 (203-3450 CIP 3 CON 4)	<b>Application Number</b>  10/786,873
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	<b>Filing Date</b>  February 25, 2004	<b>Group Art Number</b>  TBD

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
		512,456	09/15/39	Sadikova			
		1,213,005	01/16/17	Pillsbury			
		2,936,760	05/17/60	Gants			
		3,545,443	12/08/70	Ansari et al.			
		3,774,596	11/27/73	Cook			
		3,800,788	04/02/74	White			
		3,882,852	05/13/75	Sinnreich			
		Re. 29,207	05/10/77	Boldac et al.			
		4,083,369	04/11/78	Sinnreich			
		4,217,889	08/19/80	Radovan et al.			
		4,243,050	01/06/81	Littleford			
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		4,596,554	06/24/86	Dastgeer			
		4,644,936	02/24/87	Schiff			
		4,654,030	03/31/87	Moll et al.			

<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Date Considered</b>
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.	



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		4,685,447	08/11/87	Iversen et al.			
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		5,746,762	05/05/98	Bass			
		5,772,680	06/30/88	Kieturakis et al.			

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**TBD****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**


**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
		WO 95/32663	12/07/1995	PCT				

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**


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